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LADAS & PARRY LLP

Application Serial No. 09/923,375
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2005

PATENT
Docket: CU-2613

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

- 1-6. (cancelled)
7. (new) A process for privacy protection in an image printing apparatus, wherein the image printing apparatus comprises:
 - an image data inputting means for inputting image data;
 - a command inputting device for inputting a printing command including designation of an image to be output;
 - a printing means for printing the image to be output;
 - a display device for displaying an image; and
 - a processing device for producing a protection processed image for applying a privacy protection process to the image to be output, and
 - a controlling means for displaying either one of the protection processed image and the image to be output on the display device according to the designation by a user,wherein the process comprises applying a privacy protection to the image to be output at the processing device, the privacy protection being applied apart from the printing command even if the printing command has designation of printing size to be output; and
 - displaying either one of the protection processed image and the image to be output on the display device according to the designation by a user.
8. (new) A process for privacy protection in an image printing apparatus, wherein the image printing apparatus comprises:
 - an image data inputting means having one or a plurality of recording medium reading devices and/or optical image reading devices;
 - a command inputting device for inputting a printing command including designation of an image to be output;
 - an output content designation data producing means which produces the

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output content designation data recording the original or a processed image data to be output, and accompanying conditions;

a printing means for printing the image to be output according to the command of the output content designation data;

a processing device for producing a protection processed image for applying a privacy protection process to the image to be output;

a display controlling means for selecting either one of the protection processed image and the image to be output as the display image according to the designation by the user; and

a display device for displaying the display image selected by the controlling means,

wherein the process comprises applying a privacy protection to the image to be output at the processing device, the privacy protection being applied apart from the printing command even if the printing command has designation of printing size to be output; and

displaying either one of the protection processed image and the image to be output on the display device according to the designation by a user.

9. (new) The process for privacy protection in the image printing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the controlling means executes the selective display of the protection processed image and the image to be output by the display device during the printing operation by the printing means.

10. (new) The process for privacy protection in the image printing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the controlling means executes the selective display of the protection processed image and the image to be output by the display device during the setting necessary for the printing operation by the user.

11. (new) The process for privacy protection in the image printing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the processing device applies at least one selected from the group consisting of an image darkening process, a contrast lowering process, an image minifying process, a binary process of the image, an edge iris process, and an embossing process to the image to be output as the privacy

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protection process.

12. (new) The process for privacy protection in the image printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the processing device applies at least one selected from the group consisting of an image darkening process, a contrast lowering process, an image minifying process, a binary process of the image, an edge iris process, and an embossing process to the image to be output as the privacy protection process.

13. (new) The process for privacy protection in the image printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the processing device applies at least one selected from the group consisting of an image darkening process, a contrast lowering process, an image minifying process, a binary process of the image, an edge iris process, and an embossing process to the image to be output as the privacy protection process.

14. (new) The process for privacy protection in the image printing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the controlling means receives a designation from a user for applying any one selected from the group consisting of an image darkening process, a contrast lowering process, an image minifying process, a binary process of the image, an edge iris process, and an embossing process as the privacy protection process, and produces the protection processed image according to the designated process.

15. (new) The process for privacy protection in the image printing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the controlling means receives a designation from a user for applying any one selected from the group consisting of an image darkening process, a contrast lowering process, an image minifying process, a binary process of the image, an edge iris process, and an embossing process as the privacy protection process, and produces the protection processed image according to the designated process.